

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 19-26 without prejudice or admission as shown in the following listing of claims, which replaces all previous listings and versions of claims.

1. (original) A wire rod feeding device for feeding a wire rod formed of a soft material, wherein the wire rod is gripped and released, and is run out by a chuck body which is movable back and forth; and opening means for keeping an opened state of the chuck body is provided.

2. (original) A wire rod feeding device for feeding a wire rod formed of a soft material, wherein the wire rod is gripped and released, and is run out by a chuck body which is movable back and forth; and a returning operation of an operating member for operating the chuck body is performed gradually.

3. (original) A wire rod feeding device for feeding a wire rod formed of a soft material, wherein the wire rod is gripped and released, and is run out by a chuck body which is movable back and forth; and the length of a wire rod gripping portion of the chuck body is set so as to be longer than the running-out amount of the wire rod.

4. (original) A wire rod feeding device for feeding a wire rod formed of a soft material, wherein wire rod storage means for storing the soft wire rod is provided on a device body.

5. (original) The wire rod feeding device according to claim 2, wherein a knock piece for operating the chuck body is arranged on a side wall of a barrel in an exposed state; opening means for opening the chuck body by pressing the knock piece in the radial direction of the barrel is arranged so as to be movable back and forth with respect to the barrel; and a small-diameter portion and a large-diameter portion are formed successively on the inner surface of the opening means toward the knock piece.

6. (original) The wire rod feeding device according to claim 2, wherein a knock piece for operating the chuck body is arranged on a side wall of a barrel in an exposed state; opening means for opening the chuck body by pressing the knock piece in the radial direction of the barrel is arranged so as to be movable back and forth with respect to the barrel; and

the knock piece is formed successively with step portions, which have a different height in the pressing direction of the knock piece, toward the moving direction of the opening means.

7. (original) The wire rod feeding device according to claim 2, wherein a knock piece for operating the chuck body is arranged on a side wall of a barrel in an exposed state; opening means for opening the chuck body by pressing the knock piece in the radial direction of the barrel is arranged so as to be movable back and forth with respect to the barrel; and the knock piece is formed with an inclined surface, which is inclined in the pressing direction of the knock piece, toward the moving direction of the opening means.

8. (original) The wire rod feeding device according to claim 3, wherein a chuck ring for opening and closing the chuck body is arranged at the outer periphery in front of the chuck body; and the movement amount of the chuck ring is set so as to be shorter than the length of a wire rod gripping portion of the chuck body.

9. (original) The wire rod feeding device according to claim 4, wherein the wire rod storage means is detachably provided on the device body.

10. (original) The wire rod feeding device according to claim 4, wherein the wire rod storage means is exposed from the device body.

11. (original) The wire rod feeding device according to claim 4, wherein the wire rod is wound around the wire rod storage means.

12. (original) The wire rod feeding device according to claim 4, wherein the wire rod storage means is provided rotatably.

13. (original) The wire rod feeding device according to claim 4, wherein rotation resistance is given to the wire rod storage means.

14. (original) The wire rod feeding device according to claim 4, wherein the wire rod is gripped and released, and is run out by a chuck body which is movable back and forth; and opening means for the chuck body is provided on the device body, and the wire rod storage means is arranged on the opening means.

15. (original) The wire rod feeding device according to claim 4, wherein the wire rod storage means is a reel member formed with disc-shaped collar portions at both ends of a winding portion.

16. (original) The wire rod feeding device according to claim 4, wherein rotation preventing means is provided on the outside of the feeding device.

17. (original) The wire rod feeding device according to claim 16, wherein the rotation preventing means is an expanding portion.

18. (original) The wire rod feeding device according to claim 16, wherein the rotation preventing means is of a polygonal or irregular shape.

19. - 26. (canceled).

27. (original) A wire solder used for a wire rod feeding device, wherein:

the wire rod is gripped by and released from the wire rod feeding device and is run out by a chuck body which is movable back and forth, and opening means for keeping an opened state of the chuck body is provided; and wherein

the wire solder is formed of a material having a hardness equal to or lower than 20 in the Brinell hardness test.

28. (original) The wire solder according to claim 27, wherein the wire solder is wound around a reel member formed with disc-shaped collar portions at both ends of a winding portion.